

Student Project Outline

Task

You are a reporter during the Civil War. You will be viewing hundreds of photographs taken by Mathew Brady and other photographers who are out in the field. Your job is to sort through their photographs and find one that will bring the war alive to your readers. Once you find this "perfect" picture, you will write a corresponding newspaper article.

Background

The Civil War was one of the first wars caught on film. The majority of the photographs taken during the war were by Mathew Brady and other photographers who worked for him. American Memory, which is part of the Library of Congress, includes a collection of over 1000 of these photographs which have been digitized and published on the World Wide Web. It is from this collection of Selected Civil War Photographs 1861-1865 that you will select your photograph.

How To Be An Investigative Reporter

- **Photographic analysis**

Before you can begin, practice learning how to analyze a photograph. What you see is not necessarily what you get! Look at a photograph from the Civil War given to you by your teacher. Looking at your photograph, complete the Photographic Analysis Form, to learn strategies on photographic analysis. When you finish, compare your findings with your classmates who analyzed the same photograph.

- **Civil War photograph selection**

On the first day in the library, browse the Selected Civil War Photographs 1861-1865 collection so you are familiar with it. Follow your teacher's directions on how to search by keyword, browse by subject, and browse by year. Visit Does the Camera Ever Lie and complete the two activities. See how the perspective of the photographer affects photojournalism.

On the second day, search the collection and chose the photograph you wish to use. Click on the photo to enlarge it and print out a copy. Also save the image to your disk by right clicking on the picture.

- **Analysis of specific photograph**

Take a look at your photograph and analyze it using the skills you learned in the photographic analysis lesson. Make sure you have a copy of the Photographic Analysis Form. This will help you formulate questions which you will answer through your research.

- **Research**

Bring your photograph and completed photographic analysis form to the library for two days of research. To help you with your research, use your Research Guide Form for note taking. Begin your search for information based on the questions you wrote on your photographic analysis form. You may use online sources as well as books, magazines, etc. Don't forget to record your citation information in the correct format.

- **Writing**

As you complete your research, go over the How to Write a News Article Form in English class. Write your rough draft on your own and then bring it to class and complete the Peer Editing Form. Revise your article.

- **Creating a web page**

Now that you have finished your article, it is time to create a web page. Use the HTML Template Form to turn your article and photograph into your own web page. After you have finished, your work will be posted on the World Wide Web.

- **Self and peer assessment**

Your web page is complete and posted on the World Wide Web. Take a look at your page and your classmates' pages. Give some feedback using the Self and Peer Assessment Form. This is your chance to be the evaluator.

Evaluation

There are several grades in this project. Your teacher will complete a Final Evaluation Form to give you feedback on your final product. Additionally, the different activities have their own evaluation criteria and grades.

Photographic analysis	
Analysis of specific photograph	
Research	
Writing	
Peer editing	
Web page creation	
Peer and self evaluation	